

Weller said should Congress continue to approve funding for the project, area residents will begin to experience relief around the turn of the century. The entire project is scheduled to be completed in 14 to 15 years, provided federal funding is not interrupted.

On Friday, DeGraff said he's been pleased with the response from Weller and other officials.

"We're very appreciative of the attention from federal and state legislators," DeGraff said. "We haven't seen this kind of response from federal regulators in quite some time."

Mr. BEILENSON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill (H.R. 3816) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes and that I be permitted to include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HUTCHINSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 483 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 3816.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 3816) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, with Mr. OXLEY in the chair.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read for the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MYERS] and the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. BEVILL] each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MYERS].

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, your Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development for

the Committee on Appropriations brings this bill to the floor as the 13th appropriations bill this year.

Back when the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. BEVILL] and I went on the committee many, many years ago, back in the dark ages, this was known as the Public Works Committee. The bill was also affectionately remembered as the all-American bill because it touches every congressional district, every area of the continental United States and the territories. It was called the all-American bill for that reason back then, but it is even more encompassing today in the fact that now we have energy programs that certainly touch all of us, not only in this country but from all over the world.

Mr. Chairman, today we have a bill that is not the bill that many of us would like to see. We have had to work very hard this year on it as was mentioned previously by the Rules Committee. When we got to allocations this year, we were originally \$1.3 billion below last year's 602(b) allocation. Last year the House bill cut almost a half a billion dollars from our 602(b) allocation voluntarily and we cut 120 programs out last year and finally the House in agreement with the Senate cut out about 50 new programs and reduced many more.

This year we were expected to do even more with a \$1.3 billion cut below last year. All of us are interested in balancing the budget, in cutting spending, but because each of these that we appropriate in this bill touches so many areas of concern, whether it be in the Department of Energy, be it in national defense, be it in water resources and conservation, the proper use of our water resources, all of these touch every one of us every day. It was just something that we could not cut that much. We did not bring that bill to the floor. We are today, instead of being the first bill as we were a great many years under the able leadership of my predecessor and now ranking member TOM BEVILL, we were the first bill out and usually the first one signed by the President. I apologize to the House that we have taken so long, but there has been hard work and a great many people that we need to thank, including the members but particularly staff members who worked long hours here to bring this bill to the floor: Our chief of staff Jim Ogsbury who worked such very, very long hours and did a great job for us; Jeanne Wilson, Bob Schmidt, Don McKinnon, Roger Butler, Melanie Marshall, Don Medley, as well as Claudia Wear and Doug Wasitis of my personal staff. All of us put in a lot of long, hard hours of work to bring this bill to the floor.

Today we bring before the House a bill totaling \$19.4 billion. It is \$95 million more than the final bill last year. But that is misleading, because of where some of the dollars find themselves.

A lot of people do not realize and many Members do not realize that this

bill contains a lot of money for national defense. We have \$10.9 billion in national defense items here. More than 56 percent of our bill is for national defense, having to do with nuclear weapons, with the naval reactors, just to name a few; the surveillance and the maintenance of our nuclear weapons, since we are not building any, we have to maintain the inventory and make sure that they are properly cared for and properly monitored. This is a tremendous responsibility that the Defense Department has and the Department of Energy has to supervise the control and inventory of our national weapons.

Only \$8.5 billion goes into domestic discretionary where we have actually any choice, \$8.5 billion or slightly over 43 percent of our bill. So when we had the drastic cuts that were first imposed upon the committee, it just made it impossible for us to meet our responsibilities.

The bill consists of 5 titles. Title I is the civilian, Corps of Engineers, water projects. This year we have \$3,449,192,000, which is \$156 million more than was requested by the administration. It is \$83 million more than last year.

Title II is the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, \$830 million, \$5.5 million less than last year.

Title III is Department of Energy. This is where the big bucks are because this is where most of the defense dollars are—\$15,279,926,000, which is \$902 million less than last year. The biggest cut of our bill is in the Department of Energy.

Independent agencies is \$281,531,000, which is \$48 million less than last year and title V is general provisions of the bill.

Getting into what is in each of these titles, in title I, again the Corps of Engineers, their major responsibility is the more than 25,000 miles of inland waterways, the major deep seaports of our United States that make our American industry competitive and able to do business in the rest of the world; flood control which has been mentioned here today already. Major floods hopefully can be avoided but flood control, municipal, and industrial water for many people in the country provided in the provisions of title I. We provide \$1.035 billion for construction. Construction is going on by the Corps of Engineers in 38 States and Puerto Rico.

For General Investigations, we have \$1.7 billion. This is to examine projects that are being considered for cost effectiveness and environmental issues. These general investigations are very necessary in the process before they ever go to construction. We have general investigations now in 41 States and again Puerto Rico.

Title II of the bill again is the Bureau of Reclamation where we have in central Utah \$43 million plus, Bureau of Reclamation General Investigation,